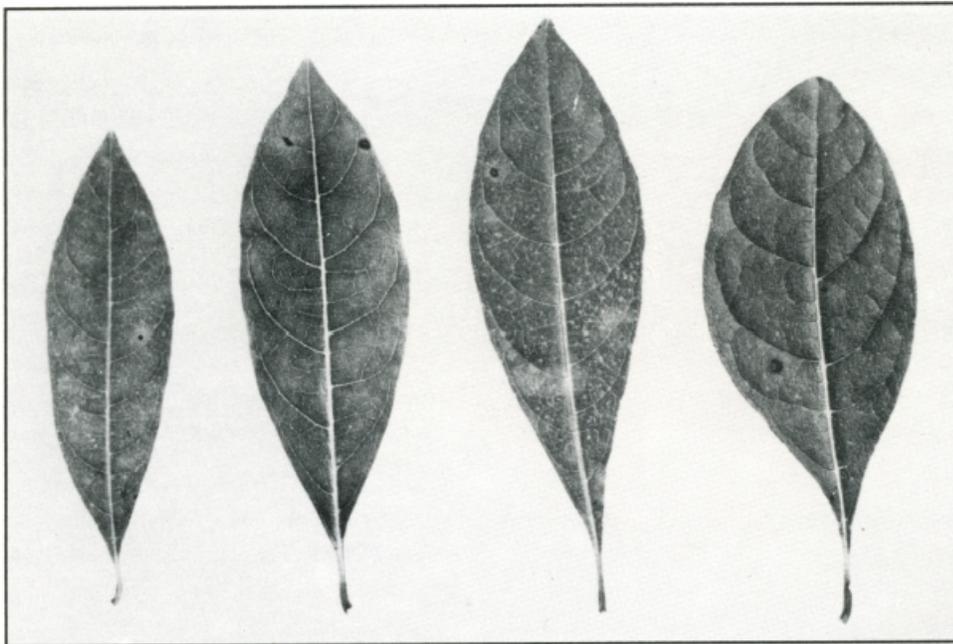


## PHYLLOSTICTA LEAF SPOT OF FRINGE TREE, *CHIONANTHUS VIRGINICUS*

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The fringe tree, *Chionanthus virginicus* L. is also known as the old man's beard, flowering ash, grandfather-graybeard, snowflower-tree, white-fringe, poison ash, graybeard-tree, sunflower-tree, and shavings (7). The genus name *Chionanthus* is a combination of two Greek words meaning "snowflower" and is a member of the ash family, Oleaceae (5,7). *C. virginicus* is a large **shrub** or slender tree, up to 30 feet tall, dioecious, deciduous, with dark green foliage, **and is primarily** grown for its large, snowy, **abundant**, white panicles of flowers (2). Flowering occurs in early summer in the south with the blooms and flower panicles being larger and showier on the staminate plants (4). The fringe tree is native to the eastern United States and ranges from Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas and Louisiana, eastward to Florida and northward to Pennsylvania and New Jersey (7). In landscape plantings, fringe trees do best in full sun, but can withstand partday shade and prefer fertile, moist but well drained soils (4). The bark has medicinal uses as a diuretic and fever remedy (7).

Of the relatively few pathogens affecting the fringe tree (1,5), *Phyllosticta chionanthi* Thuem. (3,5,6) is a leaf-spotting fungus of moderate importance and occurs infrequently with only minor, pathogenic effect to the foliage.



**SYMPTOMS:** *Phyllosticta* leaf spot is characterized by usually a single to few dark brown, subcircular lesions, up to 5 mm in diameter with a tan center, reddish brown narrow margin, and a prominent yellow halo (Fig. 1).

**CONTROL:** Since this disease occurs infrequently and at a relatively low incidence on the foliage, disease control measures are generally unnecessary.

**Figure 1.** *Phyllosticta* leaf spot of fringe tree, *Chionanthus virginicus*. DPI File #702560-17.

**SURVEY AND DETECTION:** The occurrence of dark brown, subcircular lesions with a tan center and reddish brown narrow margin and prominent yellow halo is evidence of this disease.

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